

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gaku TAKANO et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: To Be Assigned
Filing Date: August 6, 2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A5 discloses a method of producing half-tone images by choosing a conversion function based on virtual and reference solid pixels. The screen pattern means a threshold pattern for binarization.

Document A6 discloses an image forming apparatus in which the image processor changes its halftoning frequency and screen angle by selecting a triangle wave oscillator's output from others.

English translations of documents A5 and A6 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A5 and A6. Applicants also note that document A2 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A5 and document A3 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A6.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By Johnny A. Kumar

Date August 6, 2001

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907-1248	SERIAL NO. To Be Assigned
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		APPLICANT Gaku TAKANO et al.	
		FILING DATE August 6, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	5,708,514	01/13/1998	Higuchi et al.	358	458	
	A2	4,977,464	12/11/1990	Ikuta	358	448	
	A3	6,069,636	05/30/2000	Sayuda et al.	345	433	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A4	09/228,956					01/12/1999

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A5	2-136255	05/24/1990	Japan			Abstract	
	A6	9-172537	06/30/1997	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* **EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.